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(54) **MULTIFUNCTIONAL RADICAL
QUENCHERS FOR THE TREATMENT OF
MITOCHONDRIAL DYSFUNCTION**

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See application file for complete search history.

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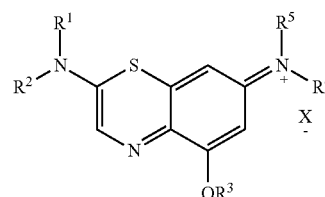
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present disclosure provides compounds of formula (I):



(I)

compositions comprising these compounds, and methods of
using these compounds in a variety of applications, such as
treatment or suppression of diseases associated with
decreased mitochondrial function resulting in diminished
ATP production and/or oxidative stress and/or lipid peroxi-
dation.

15 Claims, No Drawings

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MULTIFUNCTIONAL RADICAL QUENCHERS FOR THE TREATMENT OF MITOCHONDRIAL DYSFUNCTION

CROSS REFERENCE

This application is a US national phase of International Application No. PCT/US2013/063034, filed Oct. 2, 2013, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application, Ser. No. 61/744766, filed Oct. 3, 2012, incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present disclosure provides methods for identifying therapeutic agents that are multifunctional radical quenchers. It also provides biologically active compounds, multifunctional radical quenchers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, compositions comprising these compounds, and methods of using these compounds in a variety of applications, such as treatment or suppression of diseases associated with decreased mitochondrial function resulting in diminished ATP production and/or oxidative stress and/or lipid peroxidation.

BACKGROUND

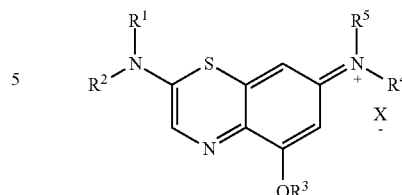
Mitochondria are intracellular organelles responsible for a number of metabolic transformations and regulatory functions. They produce much of the ATP employed by eukaryotic cells. They are also the major source of free radicals and reactive oxygen species that cause oxidative stress. Consequently, mitochondrial defects are damaging, particularly to neural and muscle tissues which have high energy level demands. Thus, energetic defects have been implicated in forms of movement disorders, cardiomyopathy, myopathy, blindness, and deafness (DiMauro et al. (2001) *Am. J. Med. Genet.* 106, 18-26; Leonard et al. (2000) *Lancet.* 355, 299-304). There are a number of mitochondrial diseases resulting from both nuclear and mitochondrial genetic defects, and the underlying biochemistries of these diseases tend to be rather similar. They include increased lactate production, diminished respiration and ATP production, and reflect the consequences of oxidative stress.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention describes novel compounds for the treatment or suppression of diseases associated with decreased mitochondrial function resulting in diminished ATP production and/or oxidative stress and/or lipid peroxidation. The invention also describes use of these compounds for the treatment of mitochondrial disorders, including but not limited to Friedreich's ataxia, Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy, Kearns-Sayre Syndrome, Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathy with Lactic Acidosis and Stroke-Like Episodes and more generally, any disease associated with impairment of energy production and mitochondrial function. Aging may also involve decreased mitochondrial function and diminished ATP production, and the therapeutic agents described here may also find utility in mitigating the effects of aging.

Thus, in one aspect, the disclosure provides compounds of formula (I)

2



(I)

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Another aspect of the disclosure provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the compounds and salts of the disclosure and an appropriate carrier, excipient or diluent. The exact nature of the carrier, excipient or diluent will depend upon the desired use for the composition, and may range from being suitable for veterinary uses to being suitable for human use. The compositions may optionally include one or more additional compounds suitable for a use.

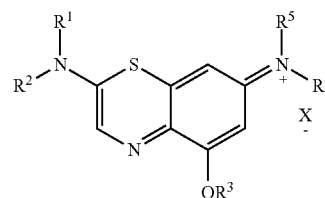
Another aspect of the disclosure provides methods of treating or suppressing diseases associated with decreased mitochondrial function resulting in diminished ATP production and/or oxidative stress and/or lipid peroxidation, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound and salts of the disclosure.

Another aspect of the disclosure provides a method of treating or suppressing one or more of Friedreich's ataxia, Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy, Kearns-Sayre Syndrome, Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathy with Lactic Acidosis and Stroke-Like Episodes, or Leigh syndrome, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound and salts of the disclosure.

Another aspect of the disclosure provides a method of treating or suppressing one or more of obesity, atherosclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, cancer, heart failure, myocardial infarction (MI), Alzheimer's Disease, Huntington's Disease, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, fragile X syndrome, and chronic fatigue syndrome, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound and salts of the disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the disclosure provides compounds of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

X is halogen;

R¹ is hydrogen, C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl, or C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl, each optionally substituted with one to four substituents selected from halogen, —CN, —NO₂, C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆ alkyl), —OR⁶, —NR⁶, —CO₂R⁶, —CONR⁶, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R⁷;

R² is C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl, or C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl, each optionally substituted with one to four substituents selected from halogen, —CN, —NO₂, C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo (C₁-C₆ alkyl), —OR⁶, —NR⁶, —CO₂R⁶, —CONR⁶, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R⁷;

R³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or halo(C₁-C₆ alkyl); and

R⁴ and R⁵ are independently C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl, or C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl, each optionally substituted with one to four substituents selected from halogen, —CN, —NO₂, C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆ alkyl), —OR⁶, —NR⁶, —CO₂R⁶, —CONR⁶, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R⁷;

where each R⁶ independently is hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo (C₁-C₆ alkyl), C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle, aryl(C₁-C₆ alkyl), C₃-C₈cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆ alkyl), aryl(C₁-C₆ alkyl), heteroaryl(C₁-C₆ alkyl), or heterocycle (C₁-C₆ alkyl), wherein each cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R⁷; and where each R⁷ independently is halogen, —CN, —NO₂, —N₃, C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆ alkyl), C₁-C₆ alkoxy, amino, C₁-C₆alkylamino, or diC₁-C₆alkylamino.

In one embodiment, the disclosure provides compounds of formula (I), wherein X is Br.

In one embodiment, the disclosure provides compounds as described above with reference to formula (I), wherein R³ is hydrogen.

In one embodiment, the disclosure provides compounds as described above with reference to formula (I), wherein R¹, R², R⁴, and R⁵ are independently C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl, or C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl, each optionally substituted with one to four substituents selected from halogen, —CN, —NO₂, C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆ alkyl), —OR⁶, —NR⁶, —CO₂R⁶, —CONR⁶, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R⁷.

In one embodiment, the disclosure provides compounds as described above with reference to formula (I), wherein R¹ is hydrogen; and R², R⁴, and R⁵ are independently C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl, or C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl, each optionally substituted with one to four substituents selected from halogen, —CN, —NO₂, C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆ alkyl), —OR⁶, —NR⁶, —CO₂R⁶, —CONR⁶, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R⁷.

In one embodiment, the disclosure provides compounds as described above with reference to formula (I), wherein R¹, R², R⁴, and R⁵ are independently C₁-C₂₀ alkyl optionally substituted with —OR⁶, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R⁷. In another embodiment, R¹, R², R⁴, and R⁵ are independently C₁-C₂₀ alkyl optionally substituted with C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R⁷.

In one embodiment, the disclosure provides compounds as described above with reference to formula (I), wherein R¹ is hydrogen; and R², R⁴, and R⁵ are independently C₁-C₂₀ alkyl optionally substituted with —OR⁶, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R⁷. In

another embodiment, R¹ is hydrogen; and R², R⁴, and R⁵ are independently C₁-C₂₀ alkyl optionally substituted with C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R⁷.

In one embodiment, the disclosure provides compounds as described above with reference to formula (I), wherein one of R¹, R², R⁴, and R⁵ is —OR⁶, others are independently C₁-C₂₀ alkyl optionally substituted with C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R⁷; and R⁶ is aryl or aryl(C₁-C₆ alkyl), where each aryl is optionally substituted with R⁷.

In one embodiment, the disclosure provides compounds as described above with reference to formula (I), wherein R¹ is hydrogen; and one of R², R⁴, and R⁵ is —OR⁶, others are independently C₁-C₂₀ alkyl optionally substituted with C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R⁷; and R⁶ is aryl or aryl(C₁-C₆ alkyl), where each aryl is optionally substituted with R⁷.

In one embodiment, the disclosure provides compounds as described above with reference to formula (I), wherein X is another anion other than halogen. Suitable anions include, but are not limited to, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, hydroxide, nitrate, nitrite, cyanide, phosphate, sulfate, sulfite, acetate, formate, propionate, isopropionate, malonate, maleate, lactate, succinate, tartrate, citrate and oxalate.

In one embodiment, the disclosure provides compounds as described above with reference to formula (I), which can exist as prodrugs. For example, —OH group in formula (I) can exist as prodrug. Suitable prodrugs include alkyl and aryl esters, acetates, carbamates, amino acid esters, such as glycine and alanine, and the like.

Therapeutic Applications

In one aspect, the disclosure provides a method for treating or protecting mitochondria with respiratory chain lesions, comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of one or more compounds of the invention.

Compounds of the disclosure are useful, for example, for treating or suppressing diseases associated with decreased mitochondrial function resulting in diminished ATP production and/or oxidative stress and/or lipid peroxidation in a subject in need of treatment. The present disclosure provides methods of treating conditions including but not limited to Friedreich's ataxia, Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy, Kearns-Sayre Syndrome, Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathy with Lactic Acidosis and Stroke-Like Episodes, and Leigh syndrome in a subject by administering an effective amount of a compound as described above with respect to formula (I), including a salt or solvate or stereoisomer thereof.

The disclosure also provides methods of treating conditions including but not limited to obesity, atherosclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, cancer, heart failure, myocardial infarction (MI), Alzheimer's Disease, Huntington's Disease, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, fragile X syndrome, chronic fatigue syndrome, and Leigh syndrome, in a subject by administering an effective amount of a compound as described above with respect to formula (I), including a salt or solvate or stereoisomer thereof.

In addition, the compounds of the invention can be used for prophylaxis of redox stress and enhancement of cellular function.

Friedreich's Ataxia

Friedreich's ataxia is a severe neurodegenerative and cardiodegenerative condition. It is characterized by progressive ataxia of the limbs, muscle weakness, dysarthria, skeletal deformities and cardiomyopathy. While the biochemical basis of the disease is still under investigation, it is strongly associated with insufficient frataxin (Wilson et al. (1997) *Nat. Genet.* 16, 352-357; Wilson et al. (2003) *J. Neurol. Sci.* 207, 103-105). In the majority of patients the insufficiency of frataxin is a consequence of an intronic GAA triplet repeat expansion in the gene for frataxin, which results in a significant decrease in its mRNA levels, and ultimately in protein levels as well (Campuzano et al. (1996) *Science* 271, 1423-1427; Campuzano et al. (1997) *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 6, 1771-1780). Frataxin acts as an iron chaperone during heme biosynthesis (Bencze et al. (2007) *J. C. S. Chem. Commun.* 1798-1800) and has been shown to be capable of stimulating the in vitro assembly of heme and Fe—S clusters (Park et al. (2003) *J. Biol. Chem.* 278, 31340-31351; Yoon et al. (2003) *J. Am Chem. Soc.* 125, 6078-6084; Yoon et al. (2004) *J. Biol. Chem.* 279, 25943-25946). Frataxin can interact physically with mitochondrial electron transport chain proteins, as well as with mitochondrial aconitase (which contains an Fe—S cluster) (Bulteau et al. (2004) *Science* 305, 242-245; Gonzalez-Cabo et al. (2005) *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 14, 2091-2098). Therefore, frataxin deficiency results in disruption of cellular iron homeostasis, with a progressive iron accumulation in the mitochondrion, and a deficiency in heme and Fe—S clusters.

It is believed that a deficiency in frataxin leads to compromised mitochondrial respiratory chain function through a failure to assemble one or more Fe-utilizing proteins; one or more Fe—S clusters in the mitochondrial respiratory complexes are likely to represent a critical locus. In fact, diminished function of these complexes has been noted in Friedreich's ataxia patients (Bradley et al. (2000) *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 9, 275-282). The loss of mitochondrial respiratory chain function can lead to diminished ATP production, while the accumulation of Fe in the mitochondria makes the organelle highly susceptible to oxidative damage by reactive oxygen species, whose concentration increases concomitant with the decrease in respiratory chain function. There is compelling evidence that while oxidative damage is not the primary lesion in Friedreich's ataxia, oxidative stress helps to drive disease progression. Therefore, strategies to overcome oxidative stress should blunt disease progression and provide effective therapy.

Other Exemplary Mitochondrial Diseases

Leber hereditary optic neuropathy is associated with degeneration of retinal ganglion cells and causes progressive loss of vision resulting in various degrees of blindness. Leber hereditary optic neuropathy primarily affects men over the age of 20 and is maternally transmitted due to mutations in the mitochondrial (not nuclear) genome.

Kearns-Sayre syndrome is a rare neuromuscular disorder typically with onset usually before the age of 20. It is characterized by progressive external ophthalmoplegia (paralysis of the eye muscles) and mild skeletal muscle weakness, hearing loss, loss of coordination, heart problems, and cognitive delays. There are many other names for the Kearns-Sayre syndrome including: Chronic progressive external ophthalmoplegia CPEO with myopathy; CPEO with ragged-red fibers; KSS; Mitochondrial cytopathy, Kearns-Sayre type; Oculocraniosomatic syndrome; Ophthalmoplegia-plus syndrome; Ophthalmoplegia with myopathy; and Ophthalmoplegia with ragged-red fibers.

Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathy with Lactic Acidosis and Stroke-Like Episodes is a progressive mitochondrial dis-

ease that involves multiple organ systems including the central nervous system, cardiac muscle, skeletal muscle, and gastrointestinal system. Symptoms include muscle weakness, stroke-like events, eye muscle paralysis, and cognitive impairment. Leigh syndrome is a degenerative brain disorder is usually diagnosed at a young age (e.g. before age two). Deterioration is often rapid with symptoms such as seizures, dementia, feeding and speech difficulties, respiratory dysfunction, heart problems, and muscle weakness. Prognosis is poor with death typically occurring within a few years of diagnosis.

Mitochondrial Energy Production

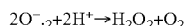
Energy released from the citric acid (Krebs) cycle in the mitochondrial matrix enters the mitochondrial electron transport chain as NADH (complex I) and FADH₂ (complex II). These are the first two of five protein complexes involved in ATP production, all of which are located in the inner mitochondrial membrane. Electrons derived from NADH (by oxidation with a NADH-specific dehydrogenase) and FADH₂ (by oxidation with succinate dehydrogenase) travel down the respiratory chain, releasing their energy in discrete steps by driving the active transport of protons from the mitochondrial matrix to the intermembrane space (i.e., through the inner mitochondrial membrane). The electron carriers in the respiratory chain include flavins, protein-bound iron-sulfur centers, quinones, cytochromes and copper. There are two molecules that transfer electrons between complexes: coenzyme Q (complex I→III, and complex II→III) and cytochrome c (complex III→IV). The final electron acceptor in the respiratory chain is O₂, which is converted to H₂O in complex IV.

In a functional mitochondrion, transport of two electrons through complex I results in the transport of 4 H⁺ into the intermembrane space. Two more H⁺ transfers to the intermembrane space result from electron transport through complex III, and four more H⁺ transfers from electron transport through complex IV. The 10 electrons transported to the intermembrane space create a proton electrochemical gradient; they can return to the mitochondrial matrix via complex V (ATP synthase), with the concomitant conversion of ADP to ATP. It is interesting that no H⁺ is transferred to the intermembrane space as a consequence of electron transport through complex II. Therefore, 2e⁻ transfer from FADH₂ (complex II→complex III→complex IV) results in the transport of only 6 protons, compared with 10 protons resulting from 2e⁻ transfer from NADH (complex I→complex III→complex IV), with correspondingly less ATP produced. Each glucose molecule metabolized by glycolysis produces 12 electrons; these are converted to 5 NADH molecules and 1 FADH₂ via the Krebs cycle in the mitochondrial matrix. The 5 NADH molecules employed in mitochondrial electron transport produce about 25 ATPs, while the single FADH₂ affords only about 3 ATP molecules. (There are another 4 molecules of ATP derived from glucose metabolism—2 during glycolysis and 2 in the Krebs cycle). While this analysis underscores the importance of complex I involvement in normal ATP production, it also tends to obscure certain metabolic realities/uncertainties that may offer important opportunities for therapeutic intervention. One metabolic reality is that complex I, while important quantitatively for ATP production in normal mitochondria, is not essential for all mitochondrial ATP production. Electrons can enter the electron transport chain at the level of coenzyme Q (either from complex II or from fatty acid oxidation), producing about 60% as much ATP as would have resulted had they entered the electron transport chain at complex I). While the flux of electrons that normally enter the individual mitochondrial complexes, ultimately passing through coenzyme Q, is probably dictated largely by the

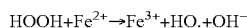
availability of electrons derived from NADH, FADH₂ and fatty acid oxidation, the actual intrinsic capacity of the individual pathways does not appear to have been studied carefully.

In functional mitochondria, a few experimental parameters can be measured readily, reflecting mitochondrial respiration. These include NADH and O₂ consumption, and ATP production. Less readily measured are the electrons that flow through the electron transport chain, thereby consuming oxygen, and producing H₂O and ATP. The electrons within the mitochondria can really only be measured when they are associated with one of the mitochondrial electron carriers such as coenzyme Q. In humans, this mitochondrial coenzyme is present as coenzyme Q₁₀, which has a 50-carbon C-substituent that renders the molecule virtually insoluble in water (calculated octanol-water partition coefficient >10²⁰) (James et al. (2005) *J Biol. Chem.* 280, 21295-21312).

In dysfunctional mitochondria, one can still carry out the same types of measurements as noted above for functioning mitochondria. If the flow of electrons through complex I is interrupted, several measured parameters should change. These include diminished consumption of NADH (measured as increased lactate through pyruvate reduction) and diminished ATP production. Since electrons will not flow as efficiently from complex I to coenzyme Q, the concentration of this reduced coenzyme will diminish. Interestingly, a new pathway for oxygen consumption is created. While oxygen is not converted as efficiently to water in complex IV (an overall four electron reduction of each oxygen molecule), much of the flow of electrons into a defective complex I is redirected to oxygen, with the production of superoxide (a one electron reduction of each oxygen). Thus, the stoichiometry of oxygen utilization is altered. The production of superoxide by mitochondria actually occurs to some extent even in normal mitochondria, but is a much more frequent event in mitochondria containing defects in the respiratory chain. Superoxide is one form of reactive oxygen species (ROS). Superoxide itself is not believed to react readily with biological molecules such as lipid membranes, proteins and DNA, and actually functions as a signaling molecule for the regulation of certain cellular processes. Biologically, the main fate of superoxide (O₂^{•-}) is a disproportionation reaction with itself to produce peroxide (H₂O₂) and oxygen, i.e.

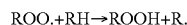
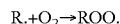
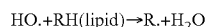


This reaction occurs spontaneously, and can also be catalyzed by superoxide dismutase. Superoxide can also be reduced to peroxide in a monovalent process. Like superoxide, hydrogen peroxide is also not intrinsically deleterious to cellular macromolecules, and is actually essential to the function of a number of enzymes. However, in the presence of metal ions such as iron and copper, hydrogen peroxide is converted to hydroxyl radical (HO•) and hydroxide ion (OH⁻) according to the Fenton reaction, i.e.



Hydroxyl radicals are very highly reactive, capable of reacting with virtually any biological molecule, including DNA, proteins and lipids. Hydroxyl radicals can also diffuse through cells readily, and their ability to damage cells is limited only by the distance that they travel before they react. Hydroxyl radicals can also react with superoxide, producing singlet oxygen ((¹O₂)+OH⁻), another highly reactive form of ROS that damages cellular macromolecules and assemblies. One particularly deleterious and well-studied reaction medi-

ated by hydroxyl radicals is the abstraction of hydrogen atoms (H•) from membrane lipids, forming a carbon-centered radical (R•). This radical



can readily react with oxygen, forming a hydroperoxy radical (ROO•). The hydroperoxy radical is also highly reactive, and can abstract another hydrogen atom from the membrane lipid, producing another carbon-centered radical (which can undergo precisely the same chemistry), ultimately producing a chain reaction affording many oxidative lesions in the membrane lipids from a single hydroxyl radical (lipid peroxidation). It is for this reason that lipid peroxidation likely represents a major process by which cellular and mitochondrial membranes are degraded in cells containing (partially) dysfunctional mitochondria. The observed accumulation of lipofuscin in Friedreich's ataxia patients is fully consistent with the thesis that lipid peroxidation is a central process that drives disease progression (La Marche et al. (1980) *Can. J. Neurosci.* 7, 389-396; Yin, D. (1996) *Free Rad. Biol. Med.* 21, 871-888; Yamada et al. (2001) *J. Lipid Res.* 42, 1187-1196).

It may be noted that while all lesions in the mitochondrial electron transport chain that affect mitochondrial dysfunction will result in elevated levels of superoxide, some types of lesions may be expected to produce more functional damage. The latter would certainly include Friedreich's ataxia, in which suboptimal levels of the protein frataxin (which is responsible for cellular iron homeostasis; Park et al. (2003) *J. Biol. Chem.* 278, 31340-31351; Yoon et al. (2003) *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 125, 6078-6084; Yoon et al. (2004) *J. Biol. Chem.* 279, 25943-25946; Bencze et al. (2007) *J. C. S. Chem. Commun.* 1798-1800) and assembly of FeS clusters in proteins results in an accumulation of Fe^{2+/3+} within the mitochondria, and contributes instead to the Fenton chemistry noted above. Likewise, disorders such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis are associated with a deficiency in the detoxifying enzyme superoxide dismutase, and will have greatly enhanced concentrations of the ROS discussed above.

One poorly studied parameter of mitochondrial electron transport is whether the process is best characterized as involving one or two electron transfers. The is important because NADH is an obligatory two-electron donor, and coenzyme Q and cytochrome c participate in two-electron redox cycles, as does FADH₂. Virtually all publications represent the processes in which these species participate as involving a net two electron change. However, FADH₂ may (and generally does) transfer its reducing equivalents as single electrons. Further, the Q cycle in complex III clearly involves single-electron transfers. Reduced cytochrome c is known to transfer electrons one at a time to cytochrome c oxidase, the enzyme responsible for the final step in respiration. Finally, the accumulation of electrons within dysfunctional mitochondria (producing reductive stress) is relieved substantially by (one-electron) reduction of oxygen to superoxide (vide supra). Thus, while the electron transport chain has the capacity to transfer two electrons by virtue of the redox cycles of most of its participants, it is not clear that it necessarily must do so to function.

Given that the reductive stress (build-up of electrons) encountered initially in mitochondrial dysfunction is a one electron process, as is lipid peroxidation, carriers of single electrons could find utility in dealing with reductive stress, e.g. molecules in which the one-electron reduced intermedi-

ate is stabilized by dipole interactions, substituent effects, resonance effects or captodative effects. Molecules designed to traffic single electrons, and which can (i) accept electrons from superoxide (ii) donate electrons to complex III and (iii) quench carbon-centered lipid radicals are especially useful. Multifunctional Radical Quenchers (MRQs) of the invention can effectively protect mitochondria, cells and organisms from oxidative stress.

Pharmaceutical Compositions

In another aspect, the present disclosure provides compositions comprising one or more of compounds as described above with respect to any of formula (I) and an appropriate carrier, excipient or diluent. The exact nature of the carrier, excipient or diluent will depend upon the desired use for the composition, and may range from being suitable or acceptable for veterinary uses to being suitable or acceptable for human use. The composition may optionally include one or more additional compounds.

When used to treat or prevent such diseases, the compounds described herein may be administered singly, as mixtures of one or more compounds or in mixture or combination with other agents useful for treating such diseases and/or the symptoms associated with such diseases. The compounds may also be administered in mixture or in combination with agents useful to treat other disorders or maladies, such as steroids, membrane stabilizers, 5LO inhibitors, leukotriene synthesis and receptor inhibitors, inhibitors of IgE isotype switching or IgE synthesis, IgG isotype switching or IgG synthesis, β -agonists, tryptase inhibitors, aspirin, COX inhibitors, methotrexate, anti-TNF drugs, retuxin, PD4 inhibitors, p38 inhibitors, PDE4 inhibitors, and antihistamines, to name a few. The compounds may be administered in the form of compounds per se, or as pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound.

Pharmaceutical compositions comprising the compound(s) may be manufactured by means of conventional mixing, dissolving, granulating, dragee-making levigating, emulsifying, encapsulating, entrapping or lyophilization processes. The compositions may be formulated in conventional manner using one or more physiologically acceptable carriers, diluents, excipients or auxiliaries which facilitate processing of the compounds into preparations which can be used pharmaceutically.

The compounds may be formulated in the pharmaceutical composition per se, or in the form of a hydrate, solvate, N-oxide or pharmaceutically acceptable salt. Typically, such salts are more soluble in aqueous solutions than the corresponding free acids and bases, but salts having lower solubility than the corresponding free acids and bases may also be formed.

Pharmaceutical compositions may take a form suitable for virtually any mode of administration, including, for example, topical, ocular, oral, buccal, systemic, nasal, injection, transdermal, rectal, vaginal, etc., or a form suitable for administration by inhalation or insufflation.

For topical administration, the compound(s) may be formulated as solutions, gels, ointments, creams, suspensions, etc. as are well-known in the art. Systemic formulations include those designed for administration by injection, e.g., subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intrathecal or intraperitoneal injection, as well as those designed for transdermal, transmucosal oral or pulmonary administration.

Useful injectable preparations include sterile suspensions, solutions or emulsions of the active compound(s) in aqueous or oily vehicles. The compositions may also contain formulating agents, such as suspending, stabilizing and/or dispersing agent. The formulations for injection may be presented in

unit dosage form, e.g., in ampules or in multidose containers, and may contain added preservatives. Alternatively, the injectable formulation may be provided in powder form for reconstitution with a suitable vehicle, including but not limited to sterile pyrogen free water, buffer, dextrose solution, etc., before use. To this end, the active compound(s) may be dried by any art-known technique, such as lyophilization, and reconstituted prior to use.

For transmucosal administration, penetrants appropriate to the barrier to be permeated are used in the formulation. Such penetrants are known in the art.

For oral administration, the pharmaceutical compositions may take the form of, for example, lozenges, tablets or capsules prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients such as binding agents (e.g., pregelatinised maize starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose); fillers (e.g., lactose, microcrystalline cellulose or calcium hydrogen phosphate); lubricants (e.g., magnesium stearate, talc or silica); disintegrants (e.g., potato starch or sodium starch glycolate); or wetting agents (e.g., sodium lauryl sulfate). The tablets may be coated by methods well known in the art with, for example, sugars, films or enteric coatings.

Liquid preparations for oral administration may take the form of, for example, elixirs, solutions, syrups or suspensions, or they may be presented as a dry product for constitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may be prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable additives such as suspending agents (e.g., sorbitol syrup, cellulose derivatives or hydrogenated edible fats); emulsifying agents (e.g., lecithin or *acacia*); non-aqueous vehicles (e.g., almond oil, oily esters, ethyl alcohol, cremophore™ or fractionated vegetable oils); and preservatives (e.g., methyl or propyl-p-hydroxybenzoates or sorbic acid). The preparations may also contain buffer salts, preservatives, flavoring, coloring and sweetening agents as appropriate.

Preparations for oral administration may be suitably formulated to give controlled release of the compound, as is well known.

For buccal administration, the compositions may take the form of tablets or lozenges formulated in conventional manner.

For rectal and vaginal routes of administration, the compound(s) may be formulated as solutions (for retention enemas) suppositories or ointments containing conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter or other glycerides.

For nasal administration or administration by inhalation or insufflation, the compound(s) can be conveniently delivered in the form of an aerosol spray from pressurized packs or a nebulizer with the use of a suitable propellant, e.g., dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, dichlorotetrafluoroethane, fluorocarbons, carbon dioxide or other suitable gas. In the case of a pressurized aerosol, the dosage unit may be determined by providing a valve to deliver a metered amount. Capsules and cartridges for use in an inhaler or insufflator (for example capsules and cartridges comprised of gelatin) may be formulated containing a powder mix of the compound and a suitable powder base such as lactose or starch.

For ocular administration, the compound(s) may be formulated as a solution, emulsion, suspension, etc. suitable for administration to the eye. A variety of vehicles suitable for administering compounds to the eye are known in the art.

For prolonged delivery, the compound(s) can be formulated as a depot preparation for administration by implantation or intramuscular injection. The compound(s) may be

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formulated with suitable polymeric or hydrophobic materials (e.g., as an emulsion in an acceptable oil) or ion exchange resins, or as sparingly soluble derivatives, e.g., as a sparingly soluble salt. Alternatively, transdermal delivery systems manufactured as an adhesive disc or patch which slowly releases the compound(s) for percutaneous absorption may be used. To this end, permeation enhancers may be used to facilitate transdermal penetration of the compound(s).

Alternatively, other pharmaceutical delivery systems may be employed. Liposomes and emulsions are well-known examples of delivery vehicles that may be used to deliver compound(s). Certain organic solvents such as dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) may also be employed, although usually at the cost of greater toxicity.

The pharmaceutical compositions may, if desired, be presented in a pack or dispenser device which may contain one or more unit dosage forms containing the compound(s). The pack may, for example, comprise metal or plastic foil, such as a blister pack. The pack or dispenser device may be accompanied by instructions for administration.

The compound(s) described herein, or compositions thereof, will generally be used in an amount effective to achieve the intended result, for example in an amount effective to treat or prevent the particular disease being treated. By therapeutic benefit is meant eradication or amelioration of the underlying disorder being treated and/or eradication or amelioration of one or more of the symptoms associated with the underlying disorder such that the patient reports an improvement in feeling or condition, notwithstanding that the patient may still be afflicted with the underlying disorder. Therapeutic benefit also generally includes halting or slowing the progression of the disease, regardless of whether improvement is realized.

The amount of compound(s) administered will depend upon a variety of factors, including, for example, the particular indication being treated, the mode of administration, whether the desired benefit is prophylactic or therapeutic, the severity of the indication being treated and the age and weight of the patient, the bioavailability of the particular compound(s) the conversion rate and efficiency into active drug compound under the selected route of administration, etc.

Determination of an effective dosage of compound(s) for a particular use and mode of administration is well within the capabilities of those skilled in the art. Effective dosages may be estimated initially from in vitro activity and metabolism assays. For example, an initial dosage of compound for use in animals may be formulated to achieve a circulating blood or serum concentration of the metabolite active compound that is at or above an IC_{50} of the particular compound as measured in as in vitro assay. Calculating dosages to achieve such circulating blood or serum concentrations taking into account the bioavailability of the particular compound via the desired route of administration is well within the capabilities of skilled artisans. Initial dosages of compound can also be estimated from in vivo data, such as animal models. Animal models useful for testing the efficacy of the active metabolites to treat or prevent the various diseases described above are well-known in the art. Animal models suitable for testing the bioavailability and/or metabolism of compounds into active metabolites are also well-known. Ordinarily skilled artisans can routinely adapt such information to determine dosages of particular compounds suitable for human administration.

Dosage amounts will typically be in the range of from about 0.0001 mg/kg/day, 0.001 mg/kg/day or 0.01 mg/kg/day to about 100 mg/kg/day, but may be higher or lower, depending upon, among other factors, the activity of the active

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metabolite compound, the bioavailability of the compound, its metabolism kinetics and other pharmacokinetic properties, the mode of administration and various other factors, discussed above. Dosage amount and interval may be adjusted individually to provide plasma levels of the compound(s) and/or active metabolite compound(s) which are sufficient to maintain therapeutic or prophylactic effect. For example, the compounds may be administered once per week, several times per week (e.g., every other day), once per day or multiple times per day, depending upon, among other things, the mode of administration, the specific indication being treated and the judgment of the prescribing physician. In cases of local administration or selective uptake, such as local topical administration, the effective local concentration of compound(s) and/or active metabolite compound(s) may not be related to plasma concentration. Skilled artisans will be able to optimize effective local dosages without undue experimentation.

DEFINITIONS

The following terms and expressions used herein have the indicated meanings.

Terms used herein may be preceded and/or followed by a single dash, “—”, or a double dash, “=”, to indicate the bond order of the bond between the named substituent and its parent moiety; a single dash indicates a single bond and a double dash indicates a double bond. In the absence of a single or double dash it is understood that a single bond is formed between the substituent and its parent moiety; further, substituents are intended to be read “left to right” unless a dash indicates otherwise. For example, C_1 - C_6 alkoxycarbonyloxy and $-OC(O)C_1$ - C_6 alkyl indicate the same functionality; similarly arylalkyl and -alkylaryl indicate the same functionality.

The term “alkenyl” as used herein, means a straight or branched chain hydrocarbon containing from 2 to 10 carbons, unless otherwise specified, and containing at least one carbon-carbon double bond. Representative examples of alkenyl include, but are not limited to, ethenyl, 2-propenyl, 2-methyl-2-propenyl, 3-butenyl, 4-pentenyl, 5-hexenyl, 2-heptenyl, 2-methyl-1-heptenyl, 3-decenyl, and 3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dienyl.

The term “alkoxy” as used herein, means an alkyl group, as defined herein, appended to the parent molecular moiety through an oxygen atom. Representative examples of alkoxy include, but are not limited to, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, 2-propoxy, butoxy, tert-butoxy, pentyloxy, and hexyloxy.

The term “alkyl” as used herein, means a straight or branched chain hydrocarbon containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms unless otherwise specified. Representative examples of alkyl include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, iso-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, n-hexyl, 3-methylhexyl, 2,2-dimethylpentyl, 2,3-dimethylpentyl, n-heptyl, n-octyl, n-nonyl, and n-decyl. When an “alkyl” group is a linking group between two other moieties, then it may also be a straight or branched chain; examples include, but are not limited to $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH(CH_3)-$, and $-CH_2CH(CH_2CH_3)CH_2-$.

The term “alkynyl” as used herein, means a straight or branched chain hydrocarbon group containing from 2 to 10 carbon atoms and containing at least one carbon-carbon triple bond. Representative examples of alkynyl include, but are not limited, to acetylenyl, 1-propynyl, 2-propynyl, 3-butylnyl, 2-pentylnyl, and 1-butylnyl.

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The term "aryl," as used herein, means a phenyl (i.e., monocyclic aryl), or a bicyclic ring system containing at least one phenyl ring or an aromatic bicyclic ring containing only carbon atoms in the aromatic bicyclic ring system. The bicyclic aryl can be azulenyl, naphthyl, or a phenyl fused to a monocyclic cycloalkyl, a monocyclic cycloalkenyl, or a monocyclic heterocyclyl. The bicyclic aryl is attached to the parent molecular moiety through any carbon atom contained within the phenyl portion of the bicyclic system, or any carbon atom with the naphthyl or azulenyl ring. The fused monocyclic cycloalkyl or monocyclic heterocyclyl portions of the bicyclic aryl are optionally substituted with one or two oxo and/or thia groups. Representative examples of the bicyclic aryls include, but are not limited to, azulenyl, naphthyl, dihydroinden-1-yl, dihydroinden-2-yl, dihydroinden-3-yl, dihydroinden-4-yl, 2,3-dihydroindol-4-yl, 2,3-dihydroindol-5-yl, 2,3-dihydroindol-6-yl, 2,3-dihydroindol-7-yl, inden-1-yl, inden-2-yl, inden-3-yl, inden-4-yl, dihydronaphthalen-2-yl, dihydronaphthalen-3-yl, dihydronaphthalen-4-yl, dihydronaphthalen-1-yl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-yl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalen-2-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-4-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-6-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-7-yl, benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-4-yl, benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl, 2H-chromen-2-on-5-yl, 2H-chromen-2-on-6-yl, 2H-chromen-2-on-7-yl, 2H-chromen-2-on-8-yl, isoindoline-1,3-dion-4-yl, isoindoline-1,3-dion-5-yl, inden-1-on-4-yl, inden-1-on-5-yl, inden-1-on-6-yl, inden-1-on-7-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[b][1,4]dioxan-5-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[b][1,4]dioxan-6-yl, 2H-benzo[b][1,4]oxazin-3(4H)-on-5-yl, 2H-benzo[b][1,4]oxazin-3(4H)-on-6-yl, 2H-benzo[b][1,4]oxazin-3(4H)-on-7-yl, 2H-benzo[b][1,4]oxazin-3(4H)-on-8-yl, benzo[d]oxazin-2(3H)-on-5-yl, benzo[d]oxazin-2(3H)-on-6-yl, benzo[d]oxazin-2(3H)-on-7-yl, benzo[d]oxazin-2(3H)-on-8-yl, quinazolin-4(3H)-on-5-yl, quinazolin-4(3H)-on-6-yl, quinazolin-4(3H)-on-7-yl, quinazolin-4(3H)-on-8-yl, quinoxalin-2(1H)-on-5-yl, quinoxalin-2(1H)-on-6-yl, quinoxalin-2(1H)-on-7-yl, quinoxalin-2(1H)-on-8-yl, benzo[d]thiazol-2(3H)-on-4-yl, benzo[d]thiazol-2(3H)-on-5-yl, benzo[d]thiazol-2(3H)-on-6-yl, and, benzo[d]thiazol-2(3H)-on-7-yl. In certain embodiments, the bicyclic aryl is (i) naphthyl or (ii) a phenyl ring fused to either a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic cycloalkyl, a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic cycloalkenyl, or a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic heterocyclyl, wherein the fused cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted with one or two groups which are independently oxo or thia.

The terms "cyano" and "nitrile" as used herein, mean a —CN group.

The term "cycloalkyl" as used herein, means a monocyclic or a bicyclic cycloalkyl ring system. Monocyclic ring systems are cyclic hydrocarbon groups containing from 3 to 8 carbon atoms, where such groups can be saturated or unsaturated, but not aromatic. In certain embodiments, cycloalkyl groups are fully saturated. Examples of monocyclic cycloalkyls include cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexenyl, cycloheptyl, and cyclooctyl. Bicyclic cycloalkyl ring systems are bridged monocyclic rings or fused bicyclic rings. Bridged monocyclic rings contain a monocyclic cycloalkyl ring where two non-adjacent carbon atoms of the monocyclic ring are linked by an alkylene bridge of between one and three additional carbon atoms (i.e., a bridging group of the form —(CH₂)_w—, where w is 1, 2, or 3). Representative examples of bicyclic ring systems include, but are not limited to, bicyclo[3.1.1]heptane, bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, bicyclo[2.2.2]octane, bicyclo[3.2.2]nonane, bicyclo[3.3.1]nonane, and bicyclo[4.2.1]nonane. Fused bicyclic

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cycloalkyl ring systems contain a monocyclic cycloalkyl ring fused to either a phenyl, a monocyclic cycloalkyl, a monocyclic cycloalkenyl, a monocyclic heterocyclyl, or a monocyclic heteroaryl. The bridged or fused bicyclic cycloalkyl is attached to the parent molecular moiety through any carbon atom contained within the monocyclic cycloalkyl ring. Cycloalkyl groups are optionally substituted with one or two groups which are independently oxo or thia. In certain embodiments, the fused bicyclic cycloalkyl is a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic cycloalkyl ring fused to either a phenyl ring, a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic cycloalkyl, a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic cycloalkenyl, a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic heterocyclyl, or a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic heteroaryl, wherein the fused bicyclic cycloalkyl is optionally substituted by one or two groups which are independently oxo or thia.

The term "halo" or "halogen" as used herein, means —Cl, —Br, —I or —F.

The term "haloalkyl" as used herein, means at least one halogen, as defined herein, appended to the parent molecular moiety through an alkyl group, as defined herein. Representative examples of haloalkyl include, but are not limited to, chloromethyl, 2-fluoroethyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, and 2-chloro-3-fluoropentyl.

The term "heteroaryl," as used herein, means a monocyclic heteroaryl or a bicyclic ring system containing at least one heteroaromatic ring. The monocyclic heteroaryl can be a 5 or 6 membered ring. The 5 membered ring consists of two double bonds and one, two, three or four nitrogen atoms and optionally one oxygen or sulfur atom. The 6 membered ring consists of three double bonds and one, two, three or four nitrogen atoms. The 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl is connected to the parent molecular moiety through any carbon atom or any nitrogen atom contained within the heteroaryl. Representative examples of monocyclic heteroaryl include, but are not limited to, furyl, imidazolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, oxazolyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, tetrazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, triazolyl, and triazinyl. The bicyclic heteroaryl consists of a monocyclic heteroaryl fused to a phenyl, a monocyclic cycloalkyl, a monocyclic cycloalkenyl, a monocyclic heterocyclyl, or a monocyclic heteroaryl. The fused cycloalkyl or heterocyclyl portion of the bicyclic heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with one or two groups which are independently oxo or thia. When the bicyclic heteroaryl contains a fused cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, or heterocyclyl ring, then the bicyclic heteroaryl group is connected to the parent molecular moiety through any carbon or nitrogen atom contained within the monocyclic heteroaryl portion of the bicyclic ring system. When the bicyclic heteroaryl is a monocyclic heteroaryl fused to a phenyl ring, then the bicyclic heteroaryl group is connected to the parent molecular moiety through any carbon atom or nitrogen atom within the bicyclic ring system. Representative examples of bicyclic heteroaryl include, but are not limited to, benzimidazolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzoxadiazolyl, benzoxathiadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, cinnolinyl, 5,6-dihydroquinolin-2-yl, 5,6-dihydroisoquinolin-1-yl, furopyridinyl, indazolyl, indolyl, isoquinolinyl, naphthyridinyl, quinolinyl, purinyl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-2-yl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-3-yl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-4-yl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroisoquinolin-1-yl, thienopyridinyl, 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[c][1,2,5]oxadiazolyl, and 6,7-dihydrobenzo[c][1,2,5]oxadiazol-4(5H)-onyl. In certain embodiments, the fused bicyclic heteroaryl is a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic heteroaryl ring fused to either a phenyl ring, a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic cycloalkyl, a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic cycloalkenyl, a 5

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or 6 membered monocyclic heterocyclyl, or a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic heteroaryl, wherein the fused cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted with one or two groups which are independently oxo or thia.

The term "heterocyclyl" as used herein, means a monocyclic heterocycle or a bicyclic heterocycle. The monocyclic heterocycle is a 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 membered ring containing at least one heteroatom independently selected from the group consisting of O, N, and S where the ring is saturated or unsaturated, but not aromatic. The 3 or 4 membered ring contains 1 heteroatom selected from the group consisting of O, N and S. The 5 membered ring can contain zero or one double bond and one, two or three heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of O, N and S. The 6 or 7 membered ring contains zero, one or two double bonds and one, two or three heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of O, N and S. The monocyclic heterocycle is connected to the parent molecular moiety through any carbon atom or any nitrogen atom contained within the monocyclic heterocycle. Representative examples of monocyclic heterocycle include, but are not limited to, azetidiny, azepanyl, aziridiny, diazepanyl, 1,3-dioxanyl, 1,3-dioxolanyl, 1,3-dithiolanyl, 1,3-dithianyl, imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, isothiazoliny, isothiazolidiny, isoxazoliny, isoxazolidiny, morpholiny, oxadiazoliny, oxadiazolidiny, oxazoliny, oxazolidiny, piperaziny, piperidiny, pyranyl, pyrazoliny, pyrazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidiny, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydrothienyl, thiadiazoliny, thiadiazolidiny, thiazoliny, thiazolidiny, thiomorpholiny, 1,1-dioxidothiomorpholiny (thiomorpholine sulfone), thiopyranyl, and trithianyl. The bicyclic heterocycle is a monocyclic heterocycle fused to either a phenyl, a monocyclic cycloalkyl, a monocyclic cycloalkenyl, a monocyclic heterocycle, or a monocyclic heteroaryl. The bicyclic heterocycle is connected to the parent molecular moiety through any carbon atom or any nitrogen atom contained within the monocyclic heterocycle portion of the bicyclic ring system. Representative examples of bicyclic heterocyclyls include, but are not limited to, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-2-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl, indolin-1-yl, indolin-2-yl, indolin-3-yl, 2,3-dihydrobenzothien-2-yl, decahydroquinoliny, decahydroisoquinoliny, octahydro-1H-indolyl, and octahydrobenzofuranyl. Heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted with one or two groups which are independently oxo or thia. In certain embodiments, the bicyclic heterocyclyl is a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic heterocyclyl ring fused to phenyl ring, a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic cycloalkyl, a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic cycloalkenyl, a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic heterocyclyl, or a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic heteroaryl, wherein the bicyclic heterocyclyl is optionally substituted by one or two groups which are independently oxo or thia.

The term "saturated" as used herein means the referenced chemical structure does not contain any multiple carbon-carbon bonds. For example, a saturated cycloalkyl group as defined herein includes cyclohexyl, cyclopropyl, and the like.

The term "unsaturated" as used herein means the referenced chemical structure contains at least one multiple carbon-carbon bond, but is not aromatic. For example, an unsaturated cycloalkyl group as defined herein includes cyclohexenyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclohexadienyl, and the like.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable" refers to those compounds, materials, compositions, and/or dosage forms which are, within the scope of sound medical judgment, suitable for contact with the tissues of human beings and animals without excessive toxicity, irritation, allergic response, or other problems or complications commensurate with a reasonable ben-

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efit/risk ratio or which have otherwise been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration as being acceptable for use in humans or domestic animals.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable salt" refers to both acid and base addition salts.

"Prodrug" refers to compounds that are transformed (typically rapidly) in vivo to yield the parent compound of the above formulae, for example, by hydrolysis in blood. Common examples include, but are not limited to, ester and amide forms of a compound having an active form bearing a carboxylic acid moiety. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable esters of the compounds of this invention include, but are not limited to, alkyl esters (for example with between about one and about six carbons) wherein the alkyl group is a straight or branched chain. Acceptable esters also include cycloalkyl esters and arylalkyl esters such as, but not limited to, benzyl. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable amides of the compounds of this invention include, but are not limited to, primary amides, and secondary and tertiary alkyl amides (for example with between about one and about six carbons). Amides and esters of the compounds of the present invention may be prepared according to conventional methods. A thorough discussion of prodrugs is provided in T. Higuchi and V. Stella, "Pro-drugs as Novel Delivery Systems," Vol 14 of the A.C.S. Symposium Series, and in Bioreversible Carriers in Drug Design, ed. Edward B. Roche, American Pharmaceutical Association and Pergamon Press, 1987, both of which are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

"Therapeutically effective amount" refers to that amount of a compound which, when administered to a subject, is sufficient to effect treatment for a disease or disorder described herein. The amount of a compound which constitutes a "therapeutically effective amount" will vary depending on the compound, the disorder and its severity, and the age of the subject to be treated, but can be determined routinely by one of ordinary skill in the art.

"Modulating" or "modulate" refers to the treating, prevention, suppression, enhancement or induction of a function, condition or disorder. For example, it is believed that the compounds of the present invention can modulate atherosclerosis by stimulating the removal of cholesterol from atherosclerotic lesions in a human.

"Treating" or "treatment" as used herein covers the treatment of a disease or disorder described herein, in a subject, preferably a human, and includes:

- i. inhibiting a disease or disorder, i.e., arresting its development;
- ii. relieving a disease or disorder, i.e., causing regression of the disorder;
- iii. slowing progression of the disorder; and/or
- iv. inhibiting, relieving, or slowing progression of one or more symptoms of the disease or disorder

"Subject" refers to a warm blooded animal such as a mammal, preferably a human, or a human child, which is afflicted with, or has the potential to be afflicted with one or more diseases and disorders described herein.

"EC₅₀" refers to a dosage, concentration or amount of a particular test compound that elicits a dose-dependent response at 50% of maximal expression of a particular response that is induced, provoked or potentiated by the particular test compound.

"IC₅₀" refers to an amount, concentration or dosage of a particular test compound that achieves a 50% inhibition of a maximal response in an assay that measures such response.

"Respiratory chain lesions" in mitochondria or "Mitochondria with respiratory chain lesions" refers to mitochondria in which the structures of the five complexes responsible

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for ATP production by oxidative phosphorylation are altered structurally, typically in a way that leads to diminished function.

Methods of Synthesis

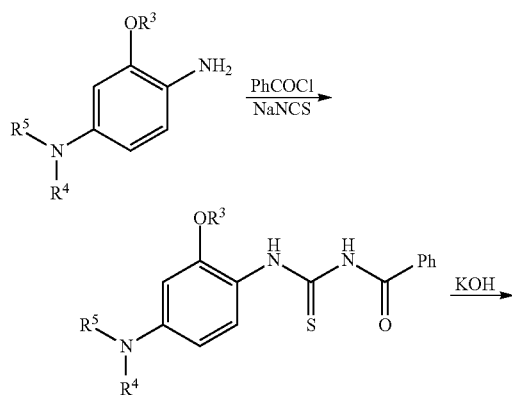
Many general references providing commonly known chemical synthetic schemes and conditions useful for synthesizing the disclosed compounds are available (see, e.g., Smith and March, *March's Advanced Organic Chemistry: Reactions, Mechanisms, and Structure*, Fifth Edition, Wiley-Interscience, 2001; or Vogel, *A Textbook of Practical Organic Chemistry, Including Qualitative Organic Analysis*, Fourth Edition, New York: Longman, 1978).

Compounds as described herein can be purified by any of the means known in the art, including chromatographic means, such as HPLC, preparative thin layer chromatography, flash column chromatography and ion exchange chromatography. Any suitable stationary phase can be used, including normal and reversed phases as well as ionic resins. Most typically the disclosed compounds are purified via silica gel and/or alumina chromatography. See, e.g., *Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography*, 2nd Edition, ed. L. R. Snyder and J. J. Kirkland, John Wiley and Sons, 1979; and *Thin Layer Chromatography*, ed E. Stahl, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1969.

During any of the processes for preparation of the subject compounds, it may be necessary and/or desirable to protect sensitive or reactive groups on any of the molecules concerned. This may be achieved by means of conventional protecting groups as described in standard works, such as J. F. W. McOmie, "Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry", Plenum Press, London and New York 1973, in T. W. Greene and P. G. M. Wuts, "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis", Third edition, Wiley, New York 1999, in "The Peptides"; Volume 3 (editors: E. Gross and J. Meienhofer), Academic Press, London and New York 1981, in "Methoden der organischen Chemie", Houben-Weyl, 4.sup.th edition, Vol. 15/1, Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart 1974, in H.-D. Jakubke and H. Jeschkeit, "Aminosäuren, Peptide, Proteine", Verlag Chemie, Weinheim, Deerfield Beach, and Basel 1982, and/or in Jochen Lehmann, "Chemie der Kohlenhydrate: Monosaccharide and Derivate", Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart 1974. The protecting groups may be removed at a convenient subsequent stage using methods known from the art.

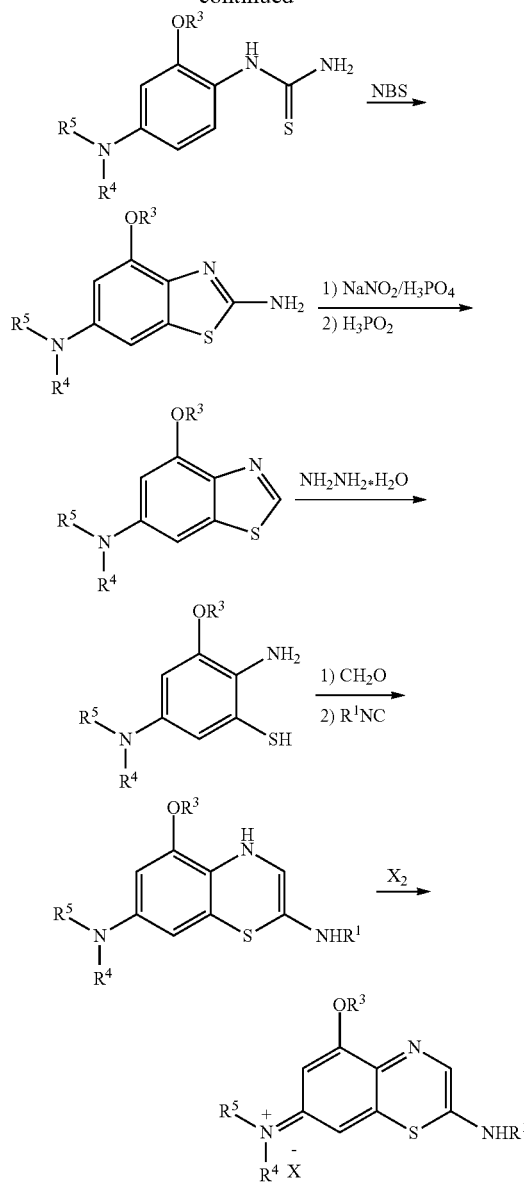
Representative synthetic procedure for the preparation of compounds of the invention is outlined below. Substituents R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , and X carry the same meaning as defined above, unless otherwise noted.

Scheme 1



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-continued



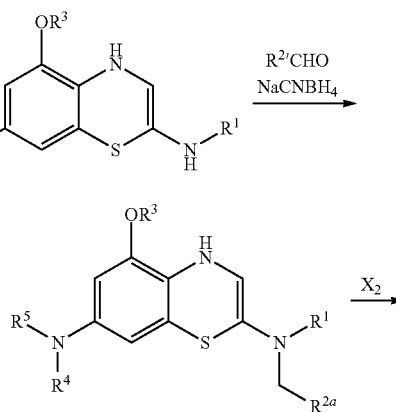
Scheme 2

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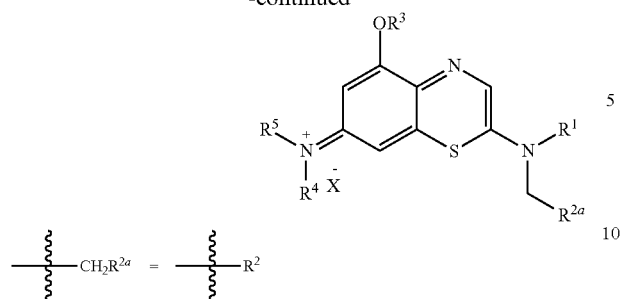
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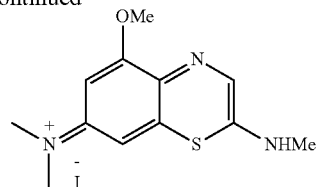


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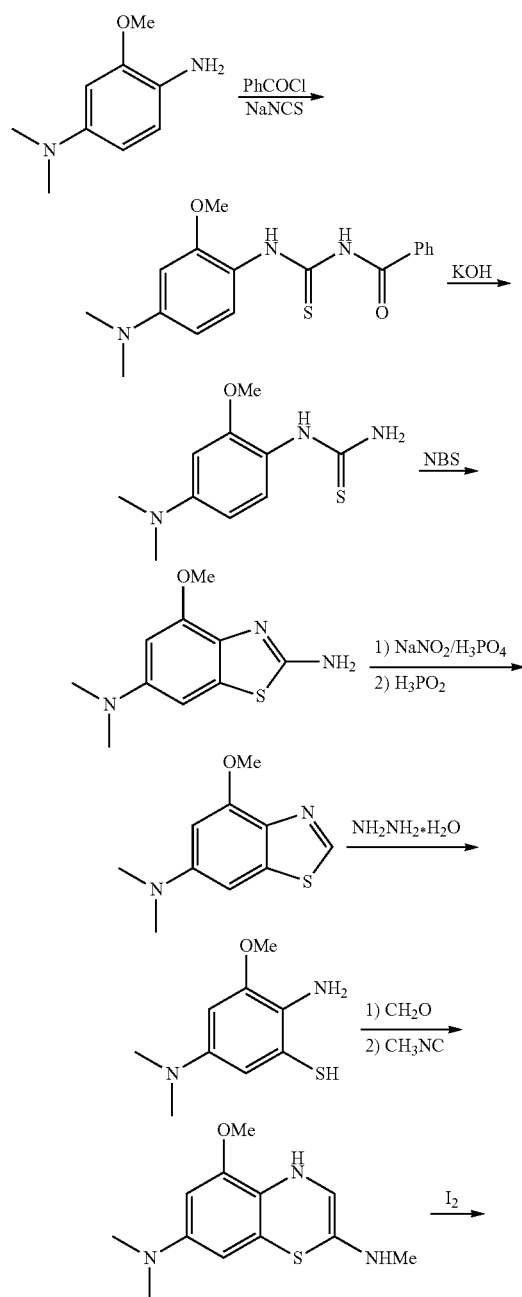
**20**

-continued



The condensation of aminobenzenethiol compound with an aldehyde (e.g., formaldehyde) and a nitrile (e.g., acetonitrile) compound has been described in Heravi et al. Synlett. 2009, 7, p. 1123-1125, which is incorporated herein in its entirety.

Scheme 3

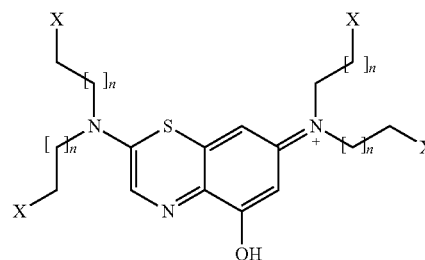


EXAMPLES

The compounds and methods of the disclosure are illustrated further by the following examples, which are provided for illustrative purposes and are not intended to be construed as limiting the disclosure in scope or spirit to the specific compounds and methods described in them.

Example 1

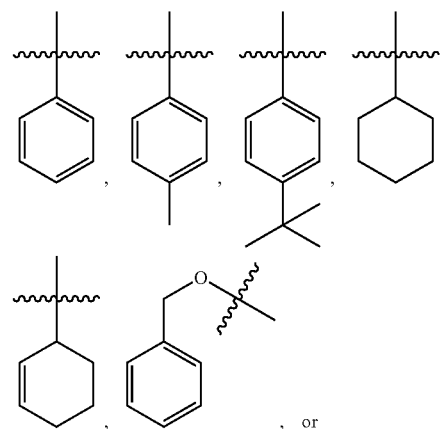
Compounds of Formula (I)



wherein:

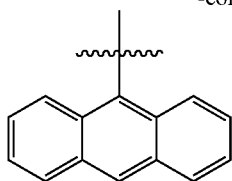
n=0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, or 13; and

X=H,



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-continued



Example 2

Cell Culture

Leukemic CEM cells (ATCC®, catalogue number CRL-2264) were cultured in RPMI (GIBCO, Grand island, NY, USA) with 10% FBS (Fisher Scientific, Tex., USA), 2 mM glutamine (HyClone, South Logan, Utah, USA) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin mix antibiotics (Cellgro, Manassas, Va., USA) supplements. Cells were maintained in the log phase at a concentration of between 1×10^5 and 1×10^6 cells/mL.

Friedreich's Ataxia lymphocytes and control cells (Coriell, catalogue number GM158150, and GM158151, respectively) were cultured in RPMI (GIBCO, Grand island, NY, USA) with 15% FBS (Fisher Scientific, Tex., USA), 2 mM glutamine (HyClone, South Logan, Utah, USA) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin mix antibiotics (Cellgro, Manassas, Va., USA) supplements. Cells were maintained in the log phase at a concentration of between 1×10^5 and 1×10^6 cells/mL.

Friedreich's Ataxia fibroblasts, and control cells (Coriell, catalog numbers GM04078 and GM08402, respectively). Fibroblasts were cultured in 64% (v/v) Eagle's Minimal Essential Medium (MEM), no phenol red with Eagle's balanced salt (EBS) and 25% M199 with EBS (GIBCO, Grand island, NY, USA) supplemented with 10% (v/v) Fetal Calf Serum (HyClone, South Logan, Utah, USA), 1% penicillin-streptomycin mix antibiotics (Cellgro, Manassas, Va., USA), 10 ng/mL insulin (Sigma, St. Louis, Mo., USA), 10 ng/mL basic fibroblast growth factor β FGF (Lonza, Walkersville, Md., USA) and 2 mM glutamine (HyClone, South Logan, Utah, USA).

CoQ₁₀ deficient lymphocyte and normal lymphocyte cell lines (Coriell Cell Repositories, catalog number GM-17932, GM-158151, respectively). CoQ₁₀ deficient lymphocytes were cultured under glucose-free media supplemented with galactose for two weeks to force energy production predominantly through oxidative phosphorylation rather than glycolysis (Quinzii et al.; Robinson B H, Petrova-Benedict R, Buncic J R, Wallace D C. Nonviability of cells with oxidative defects in galactose medium: A screening test for affected patient fibroblast. *Biochem. Med. Metab. Biol.* 1992; 48:122-126). Lymphocytes were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium glucose-free (Gibco, Grand Island, N.Y.) supplemented with 25 mM galactose, 2 mM glutamine and 1% penicillin-streptomycin (Cellgro), and 10%, dialyzed fetal bovine serum FBS (<0.5 μ g/mL) (GEMINI, Bio-Product).

Leber's cells (Coriell, catalogue number GM10744) were cultured in RPMI (GIBCO, Grand island, NY, USA) with 15% FBS (Fisher Scientific, Tex., USA), 2 mM glutamine (HyClone, South Logan, Utah, USA) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin mix antibiotics (Cellgro, Manassas, Va., USA) supplements. Cells were maintained in the log phase at a concentration of between 1×10^5 and 1×10^6 cells/mL.

Alzheimer's fibroblasts (Coriell, catalogue number AG06848) were cultured in Eagle's Minimum Essential Medium with Earle's salts (GIBCO, Grand island, NY, USA) and non-essential amino acids (Invitrogen, N.Y., USA) with

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15% FBS (Fisher Scientific, Tex., USA), 2 mM glutamine (HyClone, South Logan, Utah, USA) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin mix antibiotics (Cellgro, Manassas, Va., USA) supplements. Cells were cultured in 75 ml flasks and were maintained at confluency.

Alzheimer's lymphoblasts (Coriell, catalogue number AG06849) were cultured in RPMI (GIBCO, Grand island, NY, USA) with 15% FBS (Fisher Scientific, Tex., USA), 2 mM glutamine (HyClone, South Logan, Utah, USA) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin mix antibiotics (Cellgro, Manassas, Va., USA) supplements. Cells were maintained in the log phase at a concentration of between 1×10^5 and 1×10^6 cells/mL.

Leigh syndrome cells (Coriell, catalogue number GM13740) were cultured in RPMI (GIBCO, Grand island, NY, USA) with 15% FBS (Fisher Scientific, Tex., USA), 2 mM glutamine (HyClone, South Logan, Utah, USA) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin mix antibiotics (Cellgro, Manassas, Va., USA) supplements. Cells were maintained in the log phase at a concentration of between 1×10^5 and 1×10^6 cells/mL.

I. Lipid Peroxidation Assay

Cis-Parinaric Acid Oxidation to Measure Lipid Peroxidation

Several methods for assaying lipid peroxidation in vitro have been developed (Kuypers et al. (1987) *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 25, 266-274; Pap et al. (1999) *FEBS Lett* 453, 278-282; Drummen et al. (2002) *Free Radic Biol Med*. 33, 473-490). Almost all of these methods are based on inhibition of free radical-induced oxidation reactions. A widely used fluorescence assay for lipid peroxidation uses lipid soluble cis-parinaric acid as a probe. cis-parinaric acid loses its fluorescence ($\lambda_{exc/em}$: 320/432 nm) upon interaction with peroxy radicals and retains its fluorescence in the presence of radical quenchers. cis-parinaric acid is, however, air sensitive, photolabile and absorbs light in the UV region of the spectrum (at ~320 nm). However, this region of the spectrum is where most compounds have also been found to absorb and emit light. In practical terms, the results obtained using cis-parinaric as a probe for lipid peroxidation are confounded due to the overlapping of the compounds emission spectra with the cis-parinaric emission spectrum.

C₁₁-BODIPY^{581/591} Oxidation to Measure Lipid Peroxidation

To overcome the problem of spectral overlap using cis-parinaric acid, a fluorescence assay for lipid peroxidation using a lipophilic probe belonging to the BODIPY class of fluorescent dyes was used. C₁₁-BODIPY^{581/591} (4,4-difluoro-5-(4-phenyl-1,3-butadienyl)-4-bora-3a, 4a-diaza-s-indacene-3-propionic acid) fluorescence shifts from red to green upon oxidation. C₁₁-BODIPY^{581/591} (Molecular Probes, Eugene, Oreg., USA) stock solution concentrations were determined by measuring the absorption of C₁₁-BODIPY^{581/591} at 582 nm using a molar extinction coefficient of 140,000 mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹ (R. P. Haugland, (1999) *Handbook of Fluorescent Probes and Research Chemicals*, Molecular Probes, Inc., Eugene, Oreg.). The lipid peroxidation inducer 2,2'-Azobis (2-amidino-propane dihydrochloride) (AAPH) and the antioxidant compound α -tocopherol were obtained from Sigma (St. Louis, Mo., USA). Phospholipid bilayers were prepared from 1-stearoyl-2-oleoyl-phosphatidylcholine (SOPC) and 1,2-dilinoleoyl-phosphatidylcholine (DLPC) and were purchased from Avanti® polar lipids, INC (Alabaster, Ala., USA).

Preparation of Liposomes

Phosphatidylcholine (PC) liposomes were prepared as described before (Guey-Shuang et al. (1982) *Lipids*. 17, 403-

413). Briefly, DLPC (25 mg) and SOPC (25 mg) were dissolved in chloroform and the solvent was removed by nitrogen evaporation (~2 hours) to give a thin film of PC in a round bottom flask. The lipid film was hydrated with 50 mL of 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 100 mM KCl, shaken and sonicated for 15 seconds. The liposomes obtained were filtered several times through 0.2 μ M membrane filter.

Measurement of C_{11} -BODIPY^{581/591} Oxidation

C_{11} BODIPY^{581/591} was incorporated into liposomes and oxidized by peroxy radicals derived from the decomposition of AAPH in presence and absence of the compounds. Liposomes (1 mg/mL), suspended in 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 100 mM KCl, were transferred to a quartz 1 mL cuvette and placed in a Varian Cary Eclipse fluorometer (Varian, Cary, N.C.) equipped with a thermostatted cuvette holder at 40 °C. Liposomes were pre-incubated for 10 min with 200 nM C_{11} BODIPY^{581/591} to allow their incorporation into the lipid phase of the liposomes. After the addition of AAPH (10 mM) the decay of red fluorescence was followed at λ_{exc} =570 nm, λ_{em} =600 nm. Relative fluorescence units were normalized to 100% intensity. Results obtained were verified by repeating experiments N=3 independent experiments.

Measurement of C_{11} -BODIPY^{581/591} Oxidation in Cell Culture

Lipid peroxidation in cells was detected by utilizing the oxidant-sensitive lipophilic probe C_{11} BODIPY^{581/591}. Briefly, cells (5×10^5 cell/mL) were treated with the test compounds at final concentrations of 1 and 2.5 μ M, and incubated at 37° C. for 4 or 24 h in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂ in air. Cells were treated with 500 nM C_{11} BODIPY^{581/591} in phenol red-free RPMI-1640 media and incubated at 37° C. in the dark for 30 minutes. The cells were washed twice with phosphate buffered saline and oxidative stress was induced with 5 mM DEM in phenol red-free RPMI-1640 media for 90 minutes. Treated cells were collected by centrifugation at 300×g for 3 minutes and then washed twice with phosphate buffered saline. Cells were re-suspended in 250 μ L of phosphate buffered saline and were analyzed by FACS (FACS Calibur flow cytometer, Becton Dickinson) to monitor the change in intensity of the C_{11} BODIPY^{581/591} green (oxidized) fluorescence signal.

Assay for Thiobarbituric Acid Reactive Species (TBARS)

Lipid peroxidation by hydrogen peroxide in bovine heart mitochondrial membranes was determined by measuring the amount of thiobarbituric acid reactive substances released. Bovine heart mitochondria (1 mg protein) prepared as described by Smith (38) were added to 800 μ L of 50 mM phosphate buffer, pH 8.0, and subjected to oxidative stress by the addition of 25 mM glucose and 1 U/mL glucose oxidase from *Aspergillus niger*. Samples were incubated with or without test compounds at 37° C. for 30 minutes. Two hundred μ L each of 1% (w/v) thiobarbituric acid and 35% (v/v) perchloric acid, as well as 0.1% (w/v) butylated hydroxytoluene (from a 2% stock solution in DMSO) were added. Samples were heated at 100° C. for 15 minutes. One-mL aliquots of each sample were taken and diluted in 2 mL of water, then extracted once with 2 mL of n-butanol. Triplicate 500- μ L aliquots were taken from the butanol phase and transferred to a quartz cuvette. TBARS were determined fluorometrically from the emission spectrum (λ_{ex} 515 nm; λ_{em} 550 nm) using a Varian fluorimeter. The malondialdehyde concentration was determined based on a standard curve created using serial dilutions of 10 mM 1,1,3,3-tetraethoxypropane hydrolyzed in 1% (v/v) H₂SO₄ at 4° C. overnight. The malondialdehyde concentration was expressed as nmoles malondialdehyde per mg protein. Protein in aliquots of the homogenates was determined by the bicinchoninic acid method.

II. Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) Assay

Cellular ROS production can be monitored using 2',7'-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCFH-DA) (LeBel et al. (1992) *Chem. Res. Toxicol.* 5, 227-231) (Molecular Probes, Eugene, Oreg., USA), a membrane permeable and oxidant-sensitive fluorescent dye. DCFH-DA is a non-fluorescent derivative of fluorescein that emits fluorescence after being oxidized by hydrogen peroxide and other ROS. The emitted fluorescence is directly proportional to the concentration of hydrogen peroxide. DCFH-DA is nonionic and nonpolar and is easily taken up by cells. Once inside the cell, DCFH-DA is hydrolyzed by cellular esterases to non-fluorescent DCFH which traps the dye in the cell. In the presence of ROS including hydrogen peroxide, DCFH is oxidized to the highly fluorescent compound dichlorofluorescein (DCF). The intracellular DCF fluorescence is used as an index of cellular ROS production.

Cellular oxidative stress was induced by pharmacological depletion of glutathione (GSH) using the chemical diethylmaleate (DEM). Cells (1×10^6 cell/mL) were plated (1 mL) in twelve well plate and treated with the invention compounds (final concentration 1, 2.5, 5 or 10 μ M), and incubated for fifteen hours at 37° C., 5% CO₂. The compounds tested were prepared by first making stock solutions (1 mM) in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO). Cells were treated with 5 mM DEM for 30 minutes and collected by centrifugation at 300×g for 3 min and then washed twice with Phosphate Buffer Saline (PBS) (Invitrogen, N.Y., USA). Cells were re-suspended in PBS buffer+10 mM glucose and incubated at 37° C. in the dark for 20 min with 10 μ M DCFH-DA. Cells were collected by centrifugation at 300×g for 3 min and then washed twice with PBS buffer. The samples were analyzed immediately by flow cytometry (Becton-Dickinson FACS Caliber), (Cell Quest software, BD Biosciences) using 488 nm excitation laser and FL1-H channel 538 nm emission filter. In each analysis, 10,000 events were recorded after cell debris were electronically gated out. Results obtained were verified by running duplicates and repeating experiments N=3 independent experiments. Authentic hydrogen peroxide was used as a positive control.

III. Superoxide (O₂⁻) Assay

Cellular Superoxide production can be monitored using Dihydroethidium (DHE), a fluorogenic probe that is highly selective for Superoxide among ROS (Bindokas V P, J Neurosci 16: 1324-1336, 1996) (Invitrogen, USA). The emitted fluorescence is directly proportional to the concentration of superoxide radical. It is cell-permeable and reacts with superoxide anion to form ethidium, which in turn intercalates in the deoxyribonucleic acid, thereby exhibiting a red fluorescence (Hwan H Y, Oncology Reports 21: 253-261, 2009). Cellular Superoxide generation was induced by pharmacological inhibition of the mitochondrial electron transport between cytochrome b and c, using Antimycin A (Alexander A. Biochim Biophys Acta 767:120-129, 1984) (Sigma-Aldrich).

Cells (1×10^6 cell/mL) were plated (1 mL) in twenty four well plate and treated with the invention compounds (final concentration 1, 2.5, 5 or 10 μ M), and incubated for fifteen hours at 37° C., 5% CO₂. The compounds tested were prepared by first making stock solutions (1 mM) in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO). Cells were treated with 50 μ M Antimycin A for two hours and then, with 60 μ M DHE. The samples were analyzed immediately by flow cytometry (Becton-Dickinson FACS Caliber), (Cell Quest software, BD Biosciences) using 488 nm excitation laser and FL2-H channel 585 nm emission filter. In each analysis, 10,000 events were recorded after cell debris were electronically gated out. Results obtained were verified by running duplicates and repeating experiments

N=3 independent experiments. Mn(III)tetrakis(4-benzoic acid)porphyrin Chloride (MnTBAP) (Sigma-Aldrich, Mo., USA) was used as a positive control.

IV. Mitochondrial Membrane Potential ($\Delta\psi_m$) Assay

Measurement of Mitochondrial Membrane Potential ($\Delta\psi_m$)(FACS). For the determination of $\Delta\psi_m$, cells were pre-treated with or without the test compounds. The cells were treated with 5 mM DEM for 120 minutes, collected by centrifugation at 300×g for 3 minutes and then washed twice with phosphate buffered saline. The cells were re-suspended in PBS buffer and incubated at 37° C. in the dark for 15 minutes with 250 nM TMRM (a cationic dye which accumulates within mitochondria in accordance with the $\Delta\psi_m$ Nernst potential). Cells were collected by centrifugation at 300×g for 3 minutes and then washed twice with phosphate buffered saline. The samples were analyzed immediately by flow cytometry using 488 nm excitation laser and the FL2-H channel. The results obtained were verified in three independent experiments. The protonophore FCCP (30 μ M) was used to dissipate the chemiosmotic proton gradient ($\Delta\mu H^+$) and served as a control for loss of $\Delta\psi_m$. In each analysis, 10,000 events were recorded.

V. Trypan Blue Cell Viability Assay

Cell viability determined by trypan blue exclusion assay: This technique was used to assess the cytoprotective effects of the invention compounds in cultured cells pharmacologically treated to induce cell death by GSH depletion. DEM was used to deplete cellular GSH and induce oxidative stress. The viability of DEM-treated cells was determined by their ability to exclude the dye trypan blue. Viable cells exclude trypan blue; whereas, non-viable cells take up the dye and stain blue. Briefly, cells were seeded at a density of 1×10^6 cells/mL and treated with different concentrations of the invention compounds. Cells were incubated at 37° C. in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO₂ in air for three hours with 5 mM DEM. Cell viability was determined by staining cells with 0.4% trypan blue using a hemocytometer. At least 500 cells were counted for each experimental group. At the time of assay, >95% of DEM-treated cells were trypan blue positive; whereas, in non-DEM treated control cell cultures >95% cells were viable. Cell viability was expressed as the percentage of control. Data are expressed as means±S.E.M (n=3).

VI. Cell Viability Assays (FACS)

Cell viability and cytotoxicity were determined by simultaneous staining live and dead cells using a two-color fluorescence assay, the Live/Dead® Viability/Cytotoxicity Kit (Molecular Probes). This assay is used to measure two recognized parameters of cell viability, intracellular esterase activity and plasma integrity. The membrane-impermeant DNA dye ethidium homodimer-1 (EthD-1) was used to identify dead cells whose plasma membrane integrity was disrupted. The membrane-permeant dye calcein-AM was used to label live cells. It penetrates into the cells where it is metabolized by cytoplasmic esterases and becomes a fluorescent but membrane-impermeant probe which is retained in viable cells. Cells were incubated overnight in RPMI medium (control) and in the presence of test compound and then treated with DEM for 3 to 6 hours. Cells were stained with 0.2 μ M calcein-AM and 0.4 μ M EthD-1. After 15 minutes, flow cytometry analysis was carried out using excitation at 488 nm. The green-fluorescent (539 nm) FL1-H channel, live-cell population appears in the lower right quadrant and the red-fluorescent (585 nm) FL2-H channel dead-cell population appears in the upper left quadrant. In each analysis, 10,000 events were recorded. Results obtained were verified in three independent experiments.

VII. Calcein-AM Cell Viability Assay

A cell viability assay using the dye calcein acetoxymethyl (AM) was used to determine the effects of invention compounds on GSH-mediated cell death in primary FRDA patient derived fibroblasts (Jauslin et al. (2002) *Human Molecular Genetics*. 11, 3055-3063) FRDA fibroblasts were treated with L-buthionine (S, R)-sulfoximine (BSO) to inhibit de novo synthesis of GSH (Griffith et al. (1979) *J. Biol. Chem.* 254, 7558-7560) causing oxidative stress, plasma membrane damage and cell death. Fibroblasts from Friedreich Ataxia patients, but not control cells, die after GSH depletion on incubation with BSO (Jauslin et al. (2002) *Human Molecular Genetics*. 11, 3055-3063). Cell viability was determined using calcein-AM (Molecular Probe, Eugene, Oreg.). In live cells, non-fluorescent calcein AM is hydrolyzed by intracellular esterases to produce the strongly green fluorescent anion calcein.

BSO (L-buthionine (S, R)-sulfoximine) and (+)-alpha-tocopherol were purchased from Sigma Chemicals and calcein AM was purchased from Molecular Probes. Cells were grown in 75 cm² culture flasks (T75) and incubated at 37° C. in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO₂ in air. Cells were fed twice a week and split every third day at a ratio of 1:3 upon reaching confluency. The invention compounds and reduced and oxidized forms of idebenone and alpha-tocopherol were reconstituted in DMSO or ethanol to provide 2.5 mM stock solutions.

The compounds were screened according to the previous protocol (Jauslin et al. (2002) *Human Molecular Genetics*. 11, 3055-3063): Fibroblasts were seeded in 96 well microtiter black-walled cell culture plates (Costar, Corning, N.Y., USA) at a density of 3000 cells per well (100 μ L). The plates were incubated overnight at 37° C. in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO₂ in air to allow attachment of the cells to the culture plate. Serial dilutions of intervention and references compounds were made from their respective stock solutions to give a total volume of 150 μ L in each well. Plates were incubated overnight in cell culture. The following day, 50 μ L of a 4 mM BSO solution (in culture media) was added to each well to provide a final BSO concentration of 1 mM. Cell viability was assessed after first signs of toxicity appeared in BSO-treated cells (typically after 24-30 hours) by examining cultures under phase-contrast microscopy. The cell culture medium was discarded by aspiration and each well of the cell culture plate washed with pre-warmed HSSB to remove serum esterase activity. Cells were then treated with 200 μ L of 1.2 μ M calcein-AM in HSSB for 60 min at 37° C. in the dark to allow the dye to enter the cell and be cleaved by esterases. The negative control/background was 200 μ L of HSSB buffer. Fluorescence intensities were measured with a Spectramax M5 spectrofluorometer (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, Calif., USA) using excitation and emission of 485 nm and 525 nm respectively. The intervention compounds were assayed in triplicate. The solvent vehicles used either DMSO or ethanol did not affect cell viability at the concentrations (0.5-1%) used in the assay. The viability of non-BSO treated fibroblasts was set as 100%, and the viability of the BSO-treated and sample-treated cells was calculated relative to this value. Cell viability was expressed as the percentage of control. Data are expressed as means±S.E.M (n=3).

VIII. Cytochrome c Reduction Assay

The rate of cytochrome c (10 μ M) reduction was measured by monitoring the change in absorbance at 550 nm. Briefly the reaction was initiated by addition of 100 μ M of the invention compounds to a mixture containing 50 mM phosphate buffer, 0.1 mM EDTA, pH 7.8, and 10 μ M cytochrome c (Sigma, St. Louis, Mo. USA). For cytochrome c reduction by

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superoxide, xanthine oxidase (0.01 IU/mL) (Sigma, St. Louis, Mo. USA) was used in presence of xanthine (50 μ M).

IX. Total Intercellular ATP Concentration Assay

The reductions of mitochondrial respiratory chain activity in CoQ₁₀ deficient patients have been reported (Quinzii G M, Lopez L C, Von-Moltke J, Naini A, Krishna S, Schuelke M, Salvati L, Navas P, DiMauro S, and Hirano, M. Respiratory chain dysfunction and oxidative stress correlate with severity of primary CoQ10 deficiency. FASEB J. 2008; 22:1874-1885). The use of CoQ₁₀ analogues to normalize and restore the respiratory chain activities could provide valuable therapeutic approach. We have evaluated the efficiency of oxidative phosphorylation in CoQ₁₀ deficient lymphocyte (GM17932) in presence of tested CoQ₁₀ analogues by measuring total cellular ATP content using (ViaLight® Plus ATP monitoring reagent kit, Lonza).

Briefly, lymphocytes (2 \times 10⁵ cell/mL), were plated (1 mL in 12-well plates) and treated with the test compounds at final concentrations of 5, 10 μ M, and 25 μ M and incubated at 37° C. for 48 h in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂ in air. The test compounds were prepared by first making 20 mM stock solutions in DMSO. Cells were transferred (100 μ L) to 96-well microtiter black-walled cell culture plates (Costar, Corning, N.Y.). The total intracellular ATP level was measured in a luminator (Clarity™ luminescence microplate reader) with the ATP Bioluminescence Assay Kit (ViaLight® Plus ATP monitoring reagent kit, Lonza) following the manufacturer's instructions. The standard curve of ATP was obtained by serial dilution of 1 mM ATP solution. After calibration against the ATP standard, the ATP content of the cell extract was determined and normalized for protein content in the cell. FIG. 1 shows that the cellular content of ATP are significantly lower in CoQ₁₀ deficient than normal lymphocyte.

X. NADH Oxidase Inhibition Assay

Beef heart mitochondria were obtained by a large-scale procedure. Inverted submitochondrial particles (SMP) were prepared by the method of Matsuno-Yagi and Hatefi (J. Biol. Chem. 260 (1985), p. 14424), and stored in a buffer containing 0.25 M sucrose and 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) at -80° C. Inhibitory effects of compounds on bovine heart mitochondrial complex (I, III, IV) were evaluated. Maximal dimethyl sulfoxide concentration never exceeded 2% and had no influence on the control enzymatic activity. Beef heart SMP were diluted to 0.5 mg/mL. The enzymatic activities were assayed at 30° C. and monitored spectrophotometrically with a Beckman Coulter DU-530 (340 nm, ϵ =6.22 mM⁻¹cm⁻¹). NADH oxidase activity was determined in a reaction medium (2.5 mL) containing 50 mM Hepes, pH 7.5, containing 5 mM MgCl₂. The final mitochondrial protein concentration was 30 μ g/mL. After the pre-equilibration of SMP with inhibitor for 5 min, the initial rates were calculated from the linear portion of the traces.

XI. Mitochondrial Bioenergetics Assessment

The use of CoQ₁₀ analogues and methylene blue analogues to normalize and restore the respiratory chain activities provides valuable therapeutic approach for mitochondrial diseases. The reductions of mitochondrial respiratory chain activity in Friedreich ataxia (FRDA) patients have been reported. The efficiency of oxidative phosphorylation was evaluated in FRDA lymphocyte (GM15850) in presence of tested CoQ₁₀ analogues and methylene blue analogues by measuring total cellular ATP content using (ViaLight®-Plus ATP monitoring reagent kit, Lonza).

FRDA lymphocyte cell lines were obtained from Coriell Cell Repositories. FRDA lymphocytes were cultured under glucose-free media supplemented with galactose for two

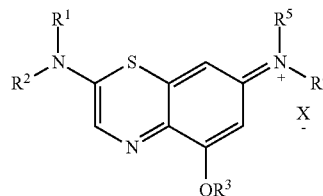
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weeks to force energy production predominantly through oxidative phosphorylation rather than glycolysis. Lymphocytes were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium glucose-free supplemented with 25 mM galactose, 2 mM glutamine and 1% penicillin-streptomycin, and 10%, dialyzed fetal bovine serum FBS (<0.5 μ g/mL). Briefly, lymphocytes (2 \times 10⁵ cell/mL), were plated (1 mL in 12-well plates) and treated with the test compounds at final concentrations of 50,125,250,1000, and 5000 nM, and incubated at 37° C. for 48 h in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂ in air. Cells were transferred (100 μ L) to 96-well microtiter black-walled cell culture plates. The total intracellular ATP level was measured in a luminator (Clarity™ luminescence microplate reader) with the ATP Bioluminescence Assay Kit (ViaLight®-Plus ATP monitoring reagent kit, Lonza) following the manufacturer's instructions. Carbonyl cyanide-p-trifluoromethoxy-phenylhydrazone (FCCP) and oligomycin were used as control for inhibition of ATP synthesis.

It is understood that the examples and embodiments described herein are for illustrative purposes only and that various modifications or changes in light thereof will be suggested to persons skilled in the art and are to be incorporated within the spirit and purview of this application and scope of the appended claims. All publications, patents, and patent applications cited herein are hereby incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

We claim:

1. A compound of formula:



wherein

X is halogen;

R¹ is hydrogen, C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl, or C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl, each optionally substituted with one to four substituents selected from halogen, —CN, —NO₂, C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆ alkyl), —OR⁶, —NR⁶, —CO₂R⁶, —CONR⁶, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R⁷;

R² is C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl, or C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl, each optionally substituted with one to four substituents selected from halogen, —CN, —NO₂, C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆ alkyl), —OR⁶, —NR⁶, —CO₂R⁶, —CONR⁶, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R⁷;

R³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or halo(C₁-C₆ alkyl); and

R⁴ and R⁵ are independently C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl, or C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl, each optionally substituted with one to four substituents selected from halogen, —CN, —NO₂, C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆ alkyl), —OR⁶, —NR⁶, —CO₂R⁶, —CONR⁶, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R⁷;

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where each R^6 independently is hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, halo(C_1 - C_6 alkyl), C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle, aryl(C_1 - C_6 alkyl), C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl(C_1 - C_6 alkyl), aryl(C_1 - C_6 alkyl), heteroaryl(C_1 - C_6 alkyl), or heterocycle(C_1 - C_6 alkyl), wherein each cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R^7 ; and

where each R^7 independently is halogen, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{N}_3$, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, halo(C_1 - C_6 alkyl), C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, amino, C_1 - C_6 alkylamino, or di(C_1 - C_6 alkyl)amino.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein X is Br or Cl.

3. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is hydrogen.

4. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are independently C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, or C_2 - C_{20} alkynyl, each optionally substituted with one to four substituents selected from halogen, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, halo(C_1 - C_6 alkyl), $-\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{NR}^6$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^6$, $-\text{CONR}^6$, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R^7 .

5. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is hydrogen; and

R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are independently C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, or C_2 - C_{20} alkynyl, each optionally substituted with one to four substituents selected from halogen, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, halo(C_1 - C_6 alkyl), $-\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{NR}^6$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^6$, $-\text{CONR}^6$, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle is optionally substituted with R^7 .

6. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are independently C_1 - C_{20} alkyl optionally substituted with $-\text{OR}^6$, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R^7 .

7. The compound according to claim 6, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are independently C_1 - C_{20} alkyl optionally substituted with C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R^7 .

8. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is hydrogen; and

R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are independently C_1 - C_{20} alkyl optionally substituted with $-\text{OR}^6$, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R^7 .

9. The compound according to claim 8, wherein R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are independently C_1 - C_{20} alkyl optionally substituted with C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R^7 .

10. The compound according to claim 1, wherein one of R^1 , R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 is $-\text{OR}^6$, others are independently C_1 - C_{20} alkyl optionally substituted with C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R^7 ; and R^6 is aryl or aryl(C_1 - C_6 alkyl), where each aryl is optionally substituted with R^7 .

11. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is hydrogen;

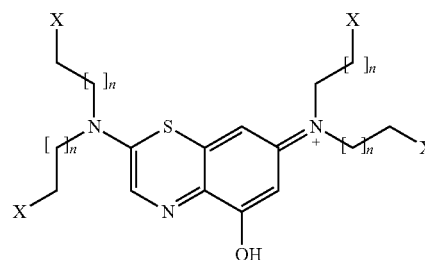
one of R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 is $-\text{OR}^6$, others are independently C_1 - C_{20} alkyl optionally substituted with C_3 - C_8

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cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkenyl, or aryl, wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and aryl is optionally substituted with R^7 ; and

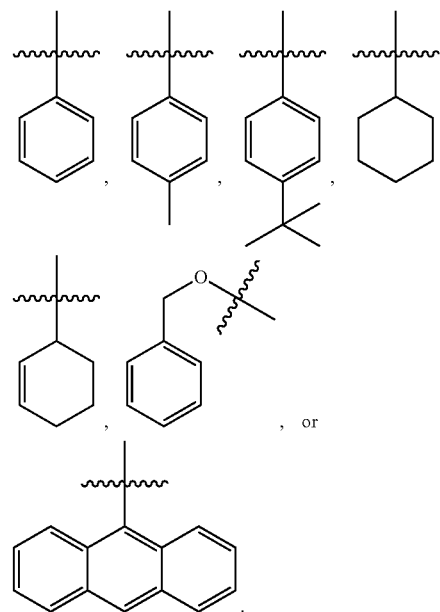
R^6 is aryl or aryl(C_1 - C_6 alkyl), where each aryl is optionally substituted with R^7 .

12. The compound according to claim 1, which is:



wherein:

$n=0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12$, or 13 ; and $X=\text{H}$,



13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and an acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluent.

14. A method of treating or suppressing diseases associated with decreased mitochondrial function resulting in diminished ATP production and/or oxidative stress and/or lipid peroxidation, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt according to claim 1, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of Friedreich's ataxia, Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy, Kearns-Sayre Syndrome, Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathy with Lactic Acidosis and Stroke-Like Episodes, Leigh syndrome, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the disease is Friedreich's ataxia.

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